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From the Reference Desk

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with very little effort, publishers can have their own look and feel.

A key feature of the **Literatum** platform is that it tracks every aspect of usage on a publisher's online content site. This gives publishers access to very detailed reports on usage of all kinds, from the search terms people enter and the links they click on, to trends in subject interest and usage behavior patterns. I think that this level of detail will ultimately help publishers and librarians shape ever increasingly useful online environments for scholarly researchers.

ATG: *What does the future hold for this type of business? The market seems so fluid, unstable, and volatile, how do you decide what area to pursue and which area not to pursue? For example, what are you doing with the DOI technology, OA, etc., the current "hot buttons?" Is this something you leave to your publisher clients to determine?*

GP: There will be a lot of evolution in the online content world from the perspective of the users, content providers, and technology. I think that the patterns and methods of usage will help to determine what the next stages are. We may see shifts to more usage-based pricing, a mixed subscription model or at least versatile packaging and re-packaging of content to suit these needs. As DOI registrations continue to grow and expand into non-journal content, article level research will change how users view content. I invite you to read an article authored by **Kristen Fisher of Atypon** and **Amy Brand from CrossRef** about this topic. <http://www.researchinformation.info/rispring03linking.html>

ATG: *Do you have an overall advisory board of some sort? Does it include librarians?*

GP: We are beginning to assemble an advisory board and are very keen on including librarians. We feel that librarians are crucial in bridging our understanding of how users are accessing and utilizing content. So far we have only been gathering anecdotal help from librarians, but we would very much like to formalize this input.

ATG: *What predictions can you make about the future? What will libraries be like in five or ten years?*


GP: The popular story right now is that libraries are going away. We may indeed find that the buildings can be put to different uses. Are librarians becoming irrelevant? No. We are seeing the emergence of the "new librarians." What are they doing? What librarians have always been doing: selecting, organizing and preserving content. But now technology is enabling them to better focus on a particular scholarly area with a particular purpose to serve a global community. An example of this is the upcoming **AnthroSource** site from the **American Anthropological Association** which will be an electronic portal to full text anthropological resources. And the **DART** project, an anthropology portal specifically targeted for education,

undertaken in a collaboration of **Columbia University (EPIC)** and the **London School of Economics** and funded by NSF and JISC/UK. We are going to increasingly see projects like this, where the definition of community served by librarians is redefined from being local to being a targeted group on a global scale.

The library as a place in which literary and artistic materials are organized in a manner that inspires research and excites the learner has to find a new home in cyberspace. The Internet can facilitate distribution. What it can't do all by itself is give users the feeling of possibility that comes from walking through a library. The potential for not only finding what you want, but also having serendipitous discoveries is yet to be replicated in an online environment. Social interaction and collaboration are not yet established in the digital libraries of the present. The possibilities for librarians are presently hard

to see, because the current publishing systems are isolated monoliths. We need layered systems with open standards for each layer, where each player—publisher, librarian and end-users—adds value and shapes his or her own layer.

Librarians need to push the publishers to open their platforms with standards that enable knowledge management, collaboration, and learning across those platforms. Then librarians will be better equipped to integrate various sources and shape the services and navigation of their collections; to seamlessly add local resources on top of the publishers' systems and to judiciously integrate freely available content. Technologists can help librarians open up the whole realm of possibilities.

I think that this is the role for librarians in the future, taking charge of the online world in which users seek for and find knowledge. In the end, it will be better for all involved. 

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Robert Scott Small Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) [<gilson@cofc.edu>](mailto:gilson@cofc.edu)

Polar exploration is often associated with names like Shackleton, Scott, Amunsen, and Peary. But our fascination with the Polar Regions stretches back farther than these early twentieth century explorers. Attesting to this is a recent two-volume encyclopedia that chronicles the full history of these often, heroic ventures. Published by **ABC-CLIO Exploring Polar Frontiers: A Historical Encyclopedia** (2003, 1576074226, \$185) takes the reader from the sub arctic travels of the Pytheas in the fourth century BCE to Borge Ousland's first solo crossing of the Arctic Ocean in 2001. In addition to the numerous articles on individual explorers, there are geographical entries describing the physical characteristics of each location, as well as the history, and importance of their discovery. There are also entries discussing cartography and mapping, expedition goals, means of transport, commercial interests, competing territorial claims, and the contributions of indigenous peoples. Written by **William James Mills**, librarian of the **Scott Polar Research Institute**, **Exploring Polar Frontiers** also has a number of helpful features aiding users of the encyclopedia. A set of twenty maps is in-

cluded in the first volume helping the reader to locate places referred to in the text. Beside the alphabetical list of entries, there is a welcomed listing by category, as well as a chronological listing of articles. This last listing is particularly helpful in tracing the evolution of Arctic and Antarctic discovery. There is significant use of "see also" references focusing on related articles, and of course, bibliographies for each entry. In addition, there is a glossary, a cumulative bibliography and a general index. Both volumes are visually enhanced with black and white photos and illustrations.

Exploring Polar Frontiers: A Historical Encyclopedia provides over 500 well researched and fact filled articles that will appeal to anyone interested in polar exploration. Appropriate for reference where there is strong demand, this is one of those sets that will also be welcomed in circulating collections, especially in larger libraries. In either case, both public and academic libraries will want to consider it for their shelves.

Another title worthy of consideration for either reference or circulation is **Routledge's African Folklore: An Encyclopedia** (2004, 041593933X, \$175). Although African peoples consist of a diversity of ethnic groups, they "share significant historical and cultural experiences" as presented in this reference.

Editors **Philip M. Peek** and **Kwesi Yankah**, employ an expanded view of folklore not limited to ancient myths and traditions. They wisely include articles on folklore as reflected in urban and contemporary life, as well as in the newer media like film and television. And while verbal art forms and the spoken word

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are essential in African societies, this encyclopedia points to the artistic communication inherent in their performance with articles on storytelling, praise poetry, theater, call-and-response in African narrative, and the relationship between oral performance and literature. Added to this, there are articles on topics as diverse as music and medicine, dress and divination, riddles and ritual and songs and superstition. A number of articles also report on the current state of African folklore scholarship. And providing additional background information, there are factual survey articles on countries and regions. Standard, but useful, features include maps, lists of entries and contributors, and a general index. There are bibliographies for each article, a number of which provide an expanded list of citations. There are also appendices listing African Studies Centers and Libraries, an African folklore filmography, and a list of sample dissertations on African folklore at US institutions.

African Folklore: An Encyclopedia is a rich and diverse academic effort. This richness and diversity are obvious in the scholarly content and topics covered in the more than 300 articles here. But it is also apparent in the list of contributors. Although half of the contributors are from the US, at least one third are African scholars with the rest being from Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. In short, academic libraries supporting African folklore or literature classes will welcome this title.

Radio has long since moved off center stage, overshadowed by television, and now the Internet. But radio has a storied past and remains a viable force in today's world of broadcast and communications media. A recent three-volume set edited by Christopher H. Sterling and published by **Fitzroy Dearborn**, gives ample evidence of this. The *Museum of Broadcast Communications Encyclopedia of Radio* (2004, 1579584527, \$375) reflects the full variety of radio from the classic broadcast journalism of **Edward R. Murrow** to the shock jock irreverence of **Howard Stern**, and from the "contradictory racial images" of *Amos n Andy* to the warm humor and old fashion variety of a *Prairie Home Companion*. In addition, the *Encyclopedia* also covers specific issues. Articles deal with controversies like blacklisting during the McCarthy era and the payola scandals, as well as with broader concerns like affirmative action in employment and ownership, and the current impacts on radio resulting from mergers and acquisitions. As you would expect, there are articles on numerous radio personalities, influential radio stations and different programming formats. There is also coverage of American public radio, as well as the status of radio in developing nations, and in places as different as Australia and the Arab world.

These three volumes have most of the standard value added features of a quality encyclopedia. Along with the specific bibliographies

accompanying each article, there is a general bibliography of the most useful reference works and other sources related to the history of radio. There is also an alphabetical list of articles contained in each volume, as well as "see also" references directing readers to related entries. Unfortunately, there is no thematic index grouping related articles by category, but the general index in the last volume is more than adequate for locating specific information.

The *Museum of Broadcast Communications Encyclopedia of Radio* offers informative, well-written articles that reveal not only the history and development of the medium, but its role in our popular culture. There are other worthwhile titles covering certain aspects and eras of radio like **Oxford Press' On the Air: the Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio** by **John Dunning** (1998, 0195076788, \$60). But this work is exceptional in the breadth and depth of its coverage, as well as in its thorough, scholarly approach. While more expensive than other references on the subject, it is a worthy addition for both public and academic libraries.

Bernan Press provides another useful, if redundant, guide to government information with **Peggy Garvin's United States Government Internet Manual** (2004, 0890599122, \$59). Of course, much of this information is available via gateway sites on the Internet, not to mention **Garvin's** more inclusive, *Government Information on the Internet* (2003, 0890596220, \$75). However, the advantage offered here is the handiness of having so many references to federal government Websites within the covers of an easy to use paperback. **Garvin**, a librarian for twenty years, also provides descriptions for each site that you are unlikely to find on a gateway Website. These descriptions act like abstracts helping the user determine the appropriateness of each site. In total, there are more than two thousand government Websites referenced with URLs and sponsoring organizations listed along with the site descriptions. Modeled on the tried and true, *United States Government Manual*, this book also contains agency organizational charts and is divided into broad categories ranging from agriculture, fishing and forestry to science and space.

The usefulness of a guide like this is apparent when one considers that approximately sixty percent of GPO offerings are currently available on the Web, with that number projected to rise to ninety five percent within five years. However, the problem with works like this is that they are repackaging of something you may already have in your collection. If your library owns the sixth edition of *Government Information on the Internet* you might want to pass on this. And if you do not, you might want to wait for the seventh edition.

Wiley's Dictionary of Engineering Materials (2004, 0471444367, \$225) is a one-volume work that both students and professionals will find of value. Written by **Harald Keller** and **Uwe Erb**, the *Dictionary* lists some 40,000 entries related to "generic and proprietary en-

gineering materials." The materials defined in this book are those used in manufacturing a myriad of products from machine parts to bridges and tools to aircraft. The actual materials vary from metal alloys to plastics, and from ceramics to natural products like leather and wood. In addition, there is coverage of newer material types like bioengineered, photonic, optical and those produced using nanotechnology. However, chemical and biochemical materials are not included. Many of the definitions are for trademarks and trade names, and list the responsible companies. According to the editors, these were selected based on "their nature, properties, applications, and overall importance." The definitions are descriptive and list material properties like contents, density, melting point and molecular formula, along with the uses of the material. The definition is often followed by appropriate synonyms, symbols and abbreviations. Unlike the *ASM materials engineering dictionary* (1993, 0871704471, \$151), this reference contains no illustrations and tables. However, the *Dictionary of Engineering Materials* has nearly four times more headwords reflecting the tremendous growth of the field. There are also useful appendices listing relevant databases and bibliographic references including encyclopedias, handbooks and other related dictionaries. In addition, there is a listing of manufacturer and supplier Websites for a variety of products from metals and alloys to plastics, glasses, composites and other materials.

While there are other works offering respected treatments of specific materials like **Charles Bray's Dictionary of Glass: Materials and Techniques** (Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr, 2001, 081223619X, \$49.95), the *Dictionary of Engineering Materials* is uniquely broad in scope, comprehensive and current. It is an obvious choice for engineering and technical libraries, but academic libraries supporting engineering programs will also want to add it to their collections.


Greenwood recently published an updated edition of a fairly specialized biographical reference. *The United States Executive Branch: A Biographical Directory of Heads of State and Cabinet Officials* (2003, 031331134X, \$150) by **Robert Sobel** and **David Sicilia** contains more than 600 entries covering those who have served as US cabinet members and heads of state from 1774 to the current Bush administration. These two volumes added fifty new biographies to **Robert Sobel's** earlier *Biographical Directory of the United States Executive Branch 1774-1989* (1990, 0313265933, \$99.95), also published by **Greenwood**. As with the earlier edition, only those cabinet members confirmed by the US Senate are included, along with presidents, vice-presidents and presidents of the Continental Congress. The biographical sketches read like *Who's Who* type entries, brief, but containing a lot of factual information. There is birth and family information, as well as educational and career highlights, with the relevant dates. Almost as useful as the biographies are the various lists that help organize these

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two volumes. There is a chronological list of presidential administrations that includes the names and positions of each cabinet member, as well as a listing of individuals by office held that includes dates and the president served. In addition, there are appendices outlining the federal, state, county and municipal government service of each person listed, as well as their military service, education, place of birth and

marital information. These appendices serve the purpose of reformatting some of most pertinent information into easy to read lists.

The United States Executive Branch: A Biographical Directory of Heads of State and Cabinet Officials should prove a useful compendium to readers interested in American political history. It condenses into one source easily accessible information about the leadership of the federal government since the founding of the country. Academic libraries, in particular, will find it of value. 



Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (Reference Librarian,
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Column Editor's Note: *William Shakespeare often uses animal imagery in his plays, including the romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. However, in it, the character Bottom is magically transformed into an ass, not a dog. In fact, most of Shakespeare's references to dogs are insulting or unkind in nature. Often, the master dramatist used the phrase "he is a dog!" (or some variation thereof) to describe a scoundrel or rogue. This issue's *Monographic Musings* combines Shakespeare and dogs in a happy light, though. Two critical surveys of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are reviewed, and Ellen Finne Duranceau offers a mass of Dog Lit commentary in her semi-regular column *Books That Matter*. Happy reading, everyone! — DV*

Halio, Jay L. *Midsummer Night's Dream: A Guide to the Play*. Greenwood Guides to Shakespeare. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2003. 0313321906. 184 page. \$55.00.
and

Nostbakken, Faith. *Nostbakken's Understanding A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents*. "Literature in Context." Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2003. 0313322139. 216 pages. \$45.00.

Reviewed by **Debbie Vaughn** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
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Greenwood Press has introduced two series that provide in-depth information about different works of literature. While they both investigate many of the same titles, **Greenwood Guides to Shakespeare** and "Literature in Context" are quite different in scope.

For example, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Guide to the Play*, written by **Jay L. Halio**, truly is just that: an in-depth guide to Shakespeare's romantic comedy. The book begins with a textual history that examines early editions, eighteenth-century editions, and modern editions of the text. In the second chapter, **Halio** considers various contexts of the script and reflects on a number of historical sources that influenced Shakespeare's story. This critical assessment is followed by a scene-by-scene explication of the text in which the dramatic structure of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is outlined. The fourth chapter presents a handful of themes that are present in the comedy: different strain of love, the play-within-the-play, reality versus illusion, friendship, and harmony from discord. **Halio** continues his analytic breakdown of the play in the fourth chapter by

expounding upon critical approaches to the text that might, as **Halio** suggest, help the reader more fully understand the "bountiful riches" of *Dream* (73). The author surveys and comments on scholarly literature pertaining to psychoanalytical criticism; feminist/gender criticism; New Historicism and Cultural Materialism; and myth, ritual, and folklore, all in light of the comedy's many themes. In the last two chapters, **Halio** discusses the play in performance or on film. Sketches and photographs from stage productions and stills from different versions of the film are included. A selected bibliography and sparse index complete the book.

In contrast, **Faith Nostbakken's** *Understanding A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents* addresses many of the same themes, but does so through a different pair of glasses. Whereas **Halio** responds to secondary literature, **Nostbakken** explores the historical, social, and political contexts of *Dream* by analyzing primary documents and historical data. Her first chapter, "Dramatic Analysis," not only

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